

Scope and DIAL

Serving the disability advice network

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Scope DIAL UK news

Feedback on Tendering and Commissioning training

It was decided that we would hold two Tendering and Commissioning training events, as members had expressed that this was still an issue for them.

Some groups had first-hand experience of the process and other groups reported that they had never had any experience.

The take-up of the training was not as good as expected, with only 30 groups and 36 people booking onto and attending the day.

However, we did expect that more groups would have shown an interest in attending, as this is clearly what will be happening over the next few months.

The training provided a practical opportunity for groups to work together to increase skills and knowledge and enable them to become more competitive when applying for local services.

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-
- The training covered:
- Understanding the procurement and commissioning process
 - Looking at specific elements of a tender or service specification
 - Practical support around writing a tender, based on services specifications (incorporating outcomes / targets)
 - Understanding how proposals are evaluated and contracts awarded
 - Legal requirements when applying for tenders
 - Techniques for successful tendering.

Some of the comments received:

“Good overview of the tendering and commissioning process, but appreciate it was very general”

“Both facilitators were very knowledgeable and experienced”

“The afternoon sessions were really useful”

“Participants felt they would feel more confident in writing tenders at the end of the course”

“I still find the process very difficult and would probably need help if having to put together a tendering bid”

“Would like more information on costing services”

“Well worth attending and the course should be offered to other Disabled People’s Organisations”

The full presentation and training handouts are supplied for everyone, via email or in paper version with this month’s mailing.

If you would like any further information

on Tendering and Commissioning please feel free to contact me at Scope DIAL UK (or Beverley Fearnley our Group Development Officer) on **01302 310 123**.

‘Meet The Funders’ event

Scope DIAL UK’s first-ever ‘Meet the Funders’ event took place in Birmingham on 13 July 2011.

We had three funders in attendance, speaking in-depth about their particular funding streams.

All the presentations from the event will form part of this month’s mailing, so please make sure you familiarise yourselves with the actual contents.

Most members stated that it was really useful being able to discuss issues re their funding bids on a personal level, and it did give some invaluable information around key points to emphasise within any funding bids members submit.

Big Lottery Fund (BLF) applications:

- In 2010, the BLF received 5730 applications
- Average funding given is £248,000
- Currently, the BLF is receiving 120 applications per week, of which 20 go through to the next stage
- An eligibility checker is now available on the BLF website and groups are advised to go through this before writing a bid.

Awards for All:

- Funding available in this strand is between £300 and £10,000
- Only one application can be submitted at a time by an organisation
- One organisation cannot receive more than £10,000 of Awards for All grants in any one year.

Reaching Communities:

- BLF no longer focus on just numbers or outcomes, but more and more importance is being focused on the ability to demonstrate meaningful changes / improvements to / for beneficiaries in any bids – therefore your outcomes need to address all three areas outlined above.

Visit: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Lloyds TSB Foundation

Lloyds TSB Foundation currently have a total funding pot of £100m, which divided over a four year period, resulting in a yearly funding pot of £25m per year.

Key messages:

- Will fund core costs
- Every applicant organisation will have a visit from a Grant Manager
- Must be able to demonstrate in the application and during the visit, changes and benefits to beneficiaries and describe the evidence you will use
- Decisions within three to six months of submission.

Funding strands available:

- Community Programme
- Issue based programmes.

Visit: www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk

The Santander Foundation

The Santander Foundation currently have a £4m a year total funding pot.

The only funding stream available is up to £10,000 for any charity in the UK.

All funding must directly help:

- Disadvantaged people through both education and training. This does not necessarily mean qualifications

(includes social skills, self esteem and confidence-building, as well as knowledge). This could include training disabled volunteers to raise confidence, esteem and improve skills both actual and social.

- Financial capability.

Application process is:

- No application form
- No deadlines
- No annual report or accounts need to be sent.

Simply apply in a letter stating:

- How much you want
- What it will buy
- How this meets Santander's priorities
- What long-term difference will it make.

The process takes six weeks. However, if you are unsuccessful, you will not be notified.

Santander won't fund salaries but would fund one day of a workers time to provide a service as outlined above, to stated group of beneficiaries.

Visit: www.santanderfoundation.org.uk

Introduction to GP Commissioning

We also had Andrew Goodall presenting to members an introduction around GP Commissioning Groups and how this may look in the future as it develops further. Andrew informed members that already the Government had made some changes to the make up of these Commissioning Groups and in the future they would be called Clinical Commissioning Groups. We had some really interesting interactive sessions regarding how groups could engage with the development of Clinical Commissioning Groups. The content of these sessions is attached within the mailing and is really useful for members to

see what they need to do next in terms of your organisations and the process. As this process is still in development and the speed of development differs across the UK with each area Clinical Commissioning Group 250 in total, this issue will remain on the agenda for some time to come.

Some messages:

- Dentists, GP's, Opticians and Pharmacists will take up some commissioned services, not Intensive Care or Cardiac
- PCT website – you need to be asking what has been commissioned already as specialised services
- Commissioning Groups should be setting their priorities and are currently drawing up their plans which should be published soon
- All members need to refer back to your area Compact Agreement as it covers Adult Services, Social Care and Third Sector
- You may need to establish provider engagement forums or be lobbying to participate in them if already established
- Who is on your Clinical Commissioning Group – members need to find out who the Chair and board members are
- Members need to gather previous Public Health reports from PCT websites
- Take note that Clinical Commissioners will be looking for efficiency savings in any tender i.e.

Yr 1 £100,000.00

Yr 2 5% efficiency saving

Yr 3 10% efficiency saving.

Remember, the NHS and Commissioners need you, they don't want monopolies, they want diversity.

Health and Wellbeing boards may set

some priorities for Joint Commissioning e.g. Mental Health and Learning Disabilities.

Quality Audit and monitoring will become an issue for DPO's and ULO's (Disabled People's Organisations and User-Led Organisations) in terms of commissioning and procurement, including GP commissioning.

GP Commissioning group feedback

What do you need from GP Commissioners?

- Transparency of processes
- Access to strategic planning documents
- Organisation structure of commissioning groups so organisations have a voice and a point of contact for communication
- Listening to us
- Acknowledgment and understanding of what specialist / smaller organisations know and do
- Acknowledgement of knowledge and expertise
- Build in a strategic way partnerships / collaborations / consultations with third sector, VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector) organisations
- Clarity regarding where on the continuum commissioning groups are in the development delivery process and when they will begin to commission services with the third sector
- Negotiations around types of services / surgeries in GP's services and other community locations we could provide or be commissioned to deliver
- Involvement and communication / transparency
- How will localism be matched with the need to drive down spending across for example a super borough of what was previously three separate smaller

-
- boroughs, and what are their priorities?
 - Any common / standardised approaches / paperwork / priorities
 - How do commissioning groups intend to engage with VCS
 - An organisational chart of those who are on the commissioning groups – find out who the movers and shakers are and make appointments with them or invite them over to our organisations, influence them and help them deliver their priorities (we may already be delivering some of these services) and use this opportunity to market our USP
 - We need to be assured that if we go through this process that in the event of the Government changing will this commissioning process still be operational, as constant change is costly to the Government and costly for us to keep changing and participating in

How will you go about getting it?

- We need to make ourselves known to CCG's (Clinical Commissioning Groups)
- Be more pro-active
- Need to go to them with a solution / plan / idea
- We need to be aware of indicators / priorities / KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) that will influence their decisions
- Be realistic about outcomes with a view to overachieving
- Explore partnership delivery or consortia
- Talk to our members / service user forums regarding their needs and ideas for future service development to meet their needs in an evidenced based way with a solution focused approach
- Knock on the door of anyone who can influence or knows who to go to for getting organisational structure / key players
- Acknowledge organisations expertise /

- experience so that specialist smaller organisations can participate and influence
- Create templates / guide to send to DPO's and ULO's (Disabled People's Organisations and User-Led Organisations) for them to forward to Local Authorities informing them of expertise, experience, knowledge in their local authority, so that the right representation can be made on the groups

What are you going to do differently in the future?

- We need to educate all those outside 'The Big Society' that we are already doing it and have been for years
- Market ourselves better to local CCG's (Clinical Commissioning Groups) and LA's (Local Authorities)
- Make sure we are commissioned properly financially, including infrastructure to support delivery
- Think about being more strategic in influencing boards as a movement
- Become more commission / business ready
- Need an infrastructure to co-ordinate / communicate e.g. Scope DIAL UK focused direct support from regional to national
- We need this support now more than ever in preparation for new funding mechanisms and the changing external environment

Jane Thompson-Brierley
Head of Scope DIAL UK

Members news

DIAL – Lowestoft and Waveney celebration

DIAL Lowestoft and Waveney report on 25 years of hard work.

At our AGM on 29 June at the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht club, 'DIAL – Lowestoft and Waveney' were celebrating on a number of accounts.

Firstly, we were celebrating our Silver Jubilee, 25 years of the organisation which was started in 1986, when four volunteers, led by Mrs Jill Brough, decided to set up a DIAL.

Since then, the organisation has gone from strength to strength. At our height, we had six members of paid staff and fourteen volunteers. Now, we are back to four members of paid staff and six volunteers, but we are still celebrating that we have managed to survive the cutbacks, and have negotiated Service Level Agreements both with Suffolk County Council and Waveney District council for yet another year.

Our Helpline answers over a hundred enquiries a week, with 6,560 contacts last financial year.

Our Appeals worker, Denise Brentnall, has to cope with an ever-increasing caseload of appeals, both for DLA and for ESA, and has a success rate of 75%, which we think is excellent.

Last year our figure for benefit gain for our clients amounted to over £2 million. We have had to lose our Outreach to three GP surgeries in rural areas due to funding from the NHS coming to an end, but we are trying to replace this with more Home visits to areas or circumstances where people find it difficult to access the office. Over the years we have set up a separate

Community transport charity and a Lowestoft Shopmobility scheme, both of which are still going strong.

We now have a new Manager, Julie Fulbrook, who took up her post on 1 June this year. In addition, Margaret Oldham, who has been involved for the past 25 years, who has been Manager for 17 of those years, and who retired last summer to become Chairman (and still does lots of work!) was awarded the MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honour's list, for the work she has done in helping disabled people in this area.

Without 'DIAL – Lowestoft and Waveney' much of this would not have been possible.

So, we do have a lot to celebrate!

Call: **01502 511333**

Email from DIAL Lowestoft and Waveney – 15 July 2011

'Working Together for Change'

Leicestershire's 'Mosaic', report that 'Working Together for Change' will continue.

'Working Together for Change' came about following a successful bid from the Personalisation Provider Development Grant (Leicestershire County Council).

It was a joint project with Just Services and Self Advocacy in Action. The Grant's purpose was to develop all of their organisations approach to Personalisation, to get staff involved with it and to start developing resources.

They decided to hold three taster days where disabled people could try out particular activities. Over the three days people had the opportunity to try using a camera, crochet and knit, nail care, gardening, pets and RSPCA, cake making and decorating, speaking up in life, cooks and eat sessions, balloon modelling, creative writing, recycle and re-use,

healthy eating, out and about, exercise and relaxation.

'Working Together for Change' is available to disabled people with learning disabilities or older people who are eligible for personal budgets or people who hit the moderate category and need affordable services.

'Working Together for Change' will continue as a project after the end of the taster days.

That's because sharing physical resources, rooms, staff and ideas is a very positive approach to the changing world of social care. It is a more flexible approach than days services / centres and Alternative Day Services for people who want to do very different things and take up exciting opportunities that are not always build-based but where appropriate support is available.

Over the next month or so we will be looking at a couple of programmes which will happen on the same day each week, 52 weeks a year. This will meet the needs of disabled people and their families who need to be assured that someone will have a regular activity one day a week.

Call: **0116 231 8720**

Visit: **www.mosaic1898.co.uk**

Mosaic News – July 2011

Any news?

If any group would like to have an article featured in this section, please contact us at Scope DIAL UK.

Call: **01302 310123**

Email: **paul.carr@scope.org.uk**

Legal update

The localism bill

Introduced into Parliament in December 2010, The Localism Bill, is currently going through the House of Lords,

One of the measures in the bill suggests making any fields, paddocks or buildings regularly used by the public into 'community assets'.

It was recently noted that not enough time was being factored in for communities to be able to make bids. William Worsley, president of the Country Land and Business Association said that landowners would be discouraged from making land or private buildings available to the public because once they became a community asset, any sale or transfer to family could be slowed or halted.

The Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed communities would not have a right to, but just a right to bid for, the property or land.

Visit:

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate

Caritas Magazine – July 2011

Employment

Permitted work higher limit from October

Official guidance has confirmed that, as usual, the permitted work higher limit (for both incapacity for work and limited capability for work) will increase in October.

The increase will be from £95 a week to £97.50 a week, and will be from 1 October.

The guidance mentions that, unlike in previous years, amendment regulations

will be unnecessary. This is because the relevant benefit rules now contain a formula for calculating the limit rather than the figure itself. The formula relates to hourly national minimum wage, which increases from £5.93 to £6.08 from 1 October, and so provides that the increase is automatic.

Visit: www.cpag.org.uk

CPAG Welfare Rights Bulletin 222 – June 2011

Government U-turn on flexible working

The Flexible Working (Eligibility, Complaints and Remedies) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 were due to come into force on 6 April 2011; they would have extended the right to request flexible working to parents of all 17-year-olds.

However, in an unexpected last-minute change – which was aimed at reducing the vast amount of red tape that small businesses face – the government decided to repeal them before they took effect. So this statutory right remains available only to parents of:

- Children aged under 17
- Disabled children under 18
- Carers of certain adults.

Visit: www.legislation.gov.uk

Safe Employment Documents – Tips & Advice Issue 3

Policy and campaigns

Flawed assessment

The Government wants to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) with Personal Independence Payments (PIP), saving £2bn.

The Disability Alliance (DA) has said ministers have not properly assessed the negative impact of the changes. The

Government also risks a costly welfare mismatch because of plans to introduce a new medical test of entitlement.

Richard Hawkes, Chief Executive of Scope, said (13 July 2011): “DLA needs to be reformed – but assessing the impact of impairment in a limited range of everyday activities will produce a ‘guestimate’ that won’t tell you anything about how much more it costs a disabled person to live their lives.

“PIP is in danger of being a poorly targeted payment, which will see many disabled people, especially those with less complex impairments but high disability-related costs, losing out on vital financial support.

“The Government made exactly the same mistake with the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) – an over-simplistic test to work out who was fit for work. Since its introduction there have been many examples of people being wrongly assessed.

“We urge the Government to reconsider the draft criteria proposed for the PIP assessment and instead look into developing an alternative model that is much more multidimensional in scope and accounts for the social and environmental factors that contribute massively to the extra costs of living with a disability.

“Not only will this ensure the DWP avoids a costly welfare mismatch, but by accurately targeting the money at those who need it most the system will save money in the long run.”

Email: policy@scope.org.uk

Call: **020 7619 7718**

Visit: www.scope.org.uk

dwp.gov.uk

www.disabilityalliance.org

www.thebrokenofbritain.org

Campaigners hope peers will secure changes to welfare reforms

Campaigners are hoping to persuade peers to make significant changes to the government's welfare reform bill, after coalition MPs approved measures that could see hundreds of thousands of disabled people lose some or all of their benefits.

The bill passed its report and third reading stages in the Commons, despite Labour opposition, and now passes to the Lords.

But campaigners believe that peers – seen as more independent-minded than MPs – will secure important changes to the proposed legislation.

Among the measures still causing concern are proposals to remove the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – the planned replacement for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – from most disabled people in residential care.

Other measures causing concern include proposals to increase the qualifying period for PIP from three months (as it is with DLA) to six months.

Campaigners are hoping the government will agree to keep this figure at three months, but instead extend the further length of time that the impairment is expected to last from six months to nine.

And there will also be intense lobbying of peers over plans to impose a 12-month limit on disabled people receiving “contributory” employment and support allowance – the replacement for incapacity benefit – for those in the “work-related activity group”.

Email: policy@scope.org.uk

Call: **020 7619 7718**

Visit: www.scope.org.uk

www.dpac.uk.net

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Response to proposed DLA costs

The Disability Alliance (DA) have issued a ‘letter of claim’ to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) over proposals to cut Disability Living Allowance (DLA) support for disabled people.

The letter is focused on whether the Department can demonstrate that the impact of proposals has been properly analysed by DWP and begins a formal process which may see DWP face full legal proceedings.

Richard Hawkes, Chief Executive of Scope, said (2 July 2011):

“The benefits system needs reforming – but the Government’s welfare plans are in danger of backfiring. They will hit disabled people disproportionately hard, making it even tougher for them to live independent lives and contribute to their community.

“Disability Living Allowance (DLA), for example, is a lifeline that covers the extra costs disabled people face on a daily basis. It needs to be reformed, but under the welfare reform bill’s proposals the payment won’t go to the people that need it most.

“For the bill to make it to the House of Lords without problems such as this being addressed raises some serious questions. The Government has a duty to understand the full impact of policy on the lives and opportunities of disabled people and their families. Has this happened?

“This legal action should be a wake up call to Iain Duncan Smith. There are alternatives on the table, which would provide more targeted support, which would reduce costs without risking disabled people’s independence and inclusion. But the pace at which Government is pushing through these reforms means practical solutions put

forward by disabled people are being left by the side of the road.”

Email: policy@scope.org.uk

Call: **020 7619 7718**

Visit: www.scope.org.uk

dwp.gov.uk

www.disabilityalliance.org

www.thebrokenofbritain.org

Future of social care funding

The Commission on Funding of Care and Support has released its long-awaited report into the funding of adult social care in England. It recommends capping costs and increasing the means testing threshold.

The independent commission, set up by the Government last July, was asked to recommend a fair and sustainable funding system for adult social care in England.

Under the current system individuals pay all their care costs unless they have assets of less than £23,250. The report proposed that those with high care costs would only pay up to a set amount and after that their care costs would be paid for by the State.

Richard Hawkes, Chief Executive of Scope, said (4 July 2011): “The Government must not let this opportunity go to waste. Andrew Lansley must stand up for millions of people that rely on an under-funded, inconsistent and at times unfair social care system, and fight for the funding needed to make Dilnot’s recommendations a reality.

“For people with lifelong conditions, it’s not just about the risk of having to sell their home due to uncapped care costs. “Many working age disabled people will never be able to buy a home in the first place, because the current system of social care means testing effectively penalises them for saving.

“If they build up savings, income or a home worth over £23,250, they risk dropping off of the means-testing ‘cliff edge’ and having to spend every penny they have saved on staggering care costs. This puts them back to square one, and leaves them without the financial resilience for unexpected shocks.

“We are delighted that Dilnot has acknowledged this as one of the most serious problems of the current system.

“We back his plans to ensure that all those who enter adulthood with a care and support need should be eligible for free state support immediately rather than being subjected to a means test. This will smooth the often treacherous transition from children’s services to adult social care.”

On an ‘end to the social care postcode lottery’ and the issue of ‘portability’ he added: “Dilnot says national eligibility criteria and portable assessments should be introduced to ensure greater consistency. At the moment eligibility varies and interpretations of eligibility vary between boroughs. There needs to be a consistent level of care across the country. We fully support Dilnot’s recommendation to end this ‘postcode lottery’.

“We also welcome Dilnot’s focus on what is known as ‘portability’. At present, many disabled people are being prevented and delayed from moving home because they cannot take their social care support with them. They need to be reassessed each time they move to a new local authority area.

“These unnecessary legal limitations seriously restrict where disabled people can live and for many, where they are able to work. In some cases people have a job offer waiting for them but cannot accept it until the local authorities reach an agreement.

“The Government wants to see more disabled people in work, but many are being prevented from doing so by this bureaucracy.”

Email: policy@scope.org.uk

Call: **020 7619 7718**

Visit: www.scope.org.uk

www.dilnotcommission.dh.gov.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-13980493

www.ncil.org.uk

Government response on review of statutory duties

In March 2011, the Minister for Decentralisation Greg Clark MP announced his intention to compile a comprehensive list of the legal duties placed on councils. On 30 June, the Government formally closed this review and published a summary of responses and the latest revised list of duties.

Richard Hawkes, Chief Executive of Scope, said (1 July 2011): “We are delighted that the Decentralisation Minister Greg Clark has pledged to protect duties that ensure the provision of vital frontline services and committed to maintaining support for disabled children and children with special educational needs. In its rush to tackle outdated and unnecessary bureaucracy, the Government almost confused red tape and burdens with essential entitlements that enable disabled people to participate in our communities.

“Disabled people and disability organisations will watch closely to make sure that any future decisions to not strip away hard-won rights to care services, accessible buildings, employment and health care. Now the Government needs to go one step further and listen to the thousands who spoke up during their Red Tape Challenge and backed the Equality

Act. The Government should pledge not to undermine any of the safeguards in the Act that protect disabled people from unfair, arbitrary or inept decision-making.”

Email: policy@scope.org.uk

Call: **020 7619 7718**

Visit: www.scope.org.uk

www.communities.gov.uk

Items of interest

Scope’s DET to transfer to Vassall Centre Trust

From August, Scope will be transferring its Disability Equality Training services to the Vassall Centre Trust, a Disabled People’s Organisation (DPO) based in Bristol.

As a respectful ally of disabled people, Scope feel it is time for this important work to be taken forward by an organisation led by disabled people. Following a number of discussions with disabled people’s organisations, Scope decided to transfer the work to the Vassall Centre Trust, based on their infrastructure, ability to engage with employers nationally and commitment to working with other DPOs to provide the training in future.

Scope have always used a network of associates, all disabled people, to provide the training and these associates will have the opportunity to continue working with the Vassall Centre Trust.

More details about the Vassall Centre Trust and the training they provide can be found at their website.

Visit: www.vassallcentre.org

Inheritance Tax

HMRC (HM Revenue and Customs) has launched a consultation on the government’s proposal to incentivise

charitable legacy by estates paying a lower rate of inheritance tax (IHT).

The proposal is part of a wide-ranging philanthropy package announced at the budget.

The IHT consultation – ‘A new incentive for charitable legacies’ – launched on 10 June, follows the Budget announcement, that estates can reduce their inheritance tax rate by 10% (to 36%) when they leave a charitable legacy of 10% or more of their net estate.

This incentive aims to encourage people to leave a charitable legacy, or to increase the amount of an existing legacy, when they die.

The consultation focuses on the policy details and how best to implement this policy, which is expected to apply to deaths on or after 6 April 2012.

HMRC welcomes views from those with an interest in this area, particularly from charities and advisers on wills and IHT. The consultation ends on 31 August 2011.

Visit: www.hmrc.gov.uk

Caritas Magazine – July 2011

Complaints – a goldmine of feedback

Negative feedback about any aspect of a charity’s operations is an opportunity to engage with supporters and improve processes as a result.

The Fundraising Standards Board (FRSB) has recently published its annual report, ‘Confident About Fundraising’, which analyses the latest fundraising complaints figures.

Key findings included:

- Of the 3.9 billion donor contacts, 18,442 were complaints.
- The top 50 charities by voluntary income account for 66% of all complaints and 91% of fundraising income.

- The top three fundraising activities by volume are: TV advertising, online advertising and press advertising.
- Addressed direct mail generated the highest number of complaints (9,462), equating to only 0.006% of the reported volume of 146 million.
- Data protection generated 1,200 complaints and ‘poor data’ resulted in around 2,000 further complaints.
- Street fundraising incurred the highest proportion of complaints (485) against the volume of activity at 0.17%.

The FRSB advises charities to:

- Make it easy for someone to give feedback and ensure the complaints procedure is accessible and straightforward;
- Treat every complainant as an individual;
- Make sure they get all the facts from the complainant and understand what sort of response is expected; and
- To take their time over each response.

Visit: www.frsb.org.uk

Caritas Magazine – July 2011

The health and social care bill

Andrew Lansley’s radical NHS reforms which handed consortia of GPs the NHS’s £80bn treatment budget were widely regarded as leading to backdoor privatisation and fragmentation of services.

Following a consultation period, the government has accepted the core recommendations of the NHS Future Forum report and will amend the Social Care Bill, which is on hold for the time being.

Visit: www.guardian.co.uk

Caritas Magazine – July 2011

Volunteering

A private members bill, by Christopher Chope MP, proposes the introduction of a 'fit and proper person certificate', which would fulfil the requirement for background checks for potential volunteers.

The certificate would be a signed declaration by a potential volunteer stating that they had not been convicted of an offence.

For volunteers aged under 18, the certificate would be countersigned by a parent or guardian.

The bill would also amend the Police Act 1997 to take account of the introduction of the new certificate. It is unlikely to gather enough support to be enacted.

Volunteering England has distanced itself from the bill, having worked closely with Lord Hodgson's Deregulation Taskforce to identify the barriers to volunteering and how to overcome them in the report 'Unshackling Good Neighbours' published in May 2011.

Visit: www.volunteering.org.uk

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Sayce says no more Remploy subsidy

The closure of Remploy factories would boost the job prospects of disabled people in the mainstream labour market significantly, a leading campaigner has concluded.

Liz Sayce, the Chief Executive of RADAR, was commissioned by the Government to review specialist employment support.

Her review concluded that by withdrawing subsidies to Remploy, worth £25,000 a year per employee, the Government could redirect that investment to double investment in the Access to Work

fund. This would, in turn, increase support for disabled people entering the mainstream employment sector.

Where economically viable, Liz Sayce said that Remploy factories should be supported through a transition process to become social enterprises led by disabled people.

She went on to say that current Remploy employees should be supported to find alternative employment.

The review also recommends diverting money away from residential training colleges, which supported 230 disabled people into work in 2009-10 at a cost of £78,000 each.

The review concludes that residential training colleges should compete for funding from alternative sources and introduce more flexible support.

Visit: www.radar.org.uk

Source: www.disabilitynow.org.uk

Chair's pledge on human rights inquiry

A disabled peer, Baroness Jane Campbell, has put human rights at the heart of a parliamentary committee's investigation into the impact of Government cuts.

The Government will not be able to duck the findings of an inquiry into whether its policies are undermining disabled people's right to live independently, the chair of an influential committee of MPs and peers has said.

Hywel Francis MP, Chair of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, said that the inquiry had been undertaken at the behest of one of the committee's members, Baroness Jane Campbell.

"We considered very seriously the impact of the spending review on the human rights of disabled people. Rather

than start an inquiry last Autumn, we decided to delay it until now when we felt that we would be able to have a more accurate picture from people across the country as the changes and cuts began to have an impact.”

The inquiry, which has been accepting written evidence since February, is significant because it represents the first high profile parliamentary scrutiny of the impact of Government policy on disabled people in the context of human rights.

Speaking at the first public evidence session were representatives from the United Kingdom Disabled People’s Council, Disability Alliance, RADAR and the National Centre for Independent Living.

They told the committee that the closure of the Independent Living Fund, welfare cuts and slashed social care budgets were creating barriers to disabled people’s right to live independently, a right set out in the United Nations convention promoting human rights for disabled people which has been ratified by the UK Government.

The Government must respond once the inquiry’s findings have been published. But it will not be under any obligation to implement any recommendations.

Visit: www.ukdpc.net
www.disabilityalliance.org
www.radar.org.uk
www.ncil.org.uk
www.parliament.uk/jchr

Source: www.disabilitynow.org.uk

Solidarity against cuts from TUC

Delegates at the TUC’s 2011 disability conference vow to fight the “vicious” and “savage” Government cuts hurting disabled people.

As might be expected, trade unionists and other activists at the TUC’s annual

disability conference in London queued up to lay into the “inhumane” medical assessments being carried out by the company Atos Healthcare.

They also lambasted the Coalition Government for abolishing Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and cutting the Access to Work budget.

And delegates pledged solidarity with grassroots organisations like the Scottish welfare and benefit rights group Black Triangle and vowed to build on the alliances forged during the TUC’s march against the cuts and The Hardest Hit demo.

“It’s something a lot of us have been hoping would happen for years,” said Sean McGovern, Chair of the TUC’s disability committee when he spoke to Disability Now after the conference. “It’s about strength in numbers.”

Opening the event, the TUC’s assistant general secretary and Equality and Human Rights commissioner Kay Carberry described the situation facing disabled people as a “moral outrage”.

She said: “It’s plain wrong that disabled people, their families and carers are suffering the worst consequences of a crisis that has nothing to do with them. The contrast couldn’t be starker: massive cuts for disabled people and massive bonuses for the bankers who caused this mess.”

Some delegates expressed hostility for Labour for its failure to stand up and defend disabled people. In spite of that, the disabled MP Anne Begg received a polite reception.

She told delegates that the coalition Government had succeeded in turning the arguments for greater equality against disabled people.

Visit: www.tuc.org.uk

Source: www.disabilitynow.org.uk

Trailblazers tell their ‘transport horror stories’

Young disabled campaigners have told some of their “transport horror stories” to MPs and leading industry figures.

The Liberal Democrat transport minister Norman Baker MP, and bus, taxi and community transport providers attended the meeting of the all-party parliamentary group for young disabled people, which focused on problems with taxi and bus travel across the UK.

Private taxi firms faced particularly heavy criticism over complaints raised about their personal experiences by members of the Trailblazers network of young disabled campaigners.

They described how they had been: repeatedly ignored by apparently available taxis; forced to rely on non-disabled members of the public to hail cabs for them; sworn at by drivers; and charged more than the standard fare because of the extra time drivers spent putting down their ramps.

They also told how they had been regularly left stranded by bus drivers who claimed their access ramps were broken, or simply pulled away if they were not at the right distance from the curb to allow a wheelchair-user to board. They stressed the need for improved training for bus drivers.

Members of the Trailblazers also questioned the minister about transport access issues.

Visit: www.mdctrailblazers.org

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Supreme Court care ruling greeted with ‘disgust’ and concern

The Supreme Court’s decision to reject a disabled woman’s appeal over the

withdrawal of council-funded support has “disgusted” campaigners, who have warned of the “extremely worrying implications” for other service-users across the country.

The court ruled – by a four-to-one majority – that Kensington and Chelsea council did not break the law by deciding to withdraw night-time support for Elaine McDonald, even though it had assessed her as needing that support. The council’s decision meant McDonald would have to use incontinence pads at night, even though she was not incontinent.

McDonald, who was said to be “very disappointed” by the ruling, is now determined to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

Disability Law Service (DLS), which has supported and represented McDonald in her legal fight since 2008, said it was a “worrying judgment”.

Douglas Joy, senior solicitor for DLS, said many people felt “very let down” because the Supreme Court had missed an opportunity to “reinforce the rights of disabled people”, and he pointed to the “huge support” for McDonald on social media websites such as Twitter.

Joy said the ruling leaves other disabled people who receive support “in a fairly precarious position” – particularly in the “current climate of financial cuts where local authorities are looking to reduce spending” – and would make it easier for councils to cut their care packages.

Visit: www.dls.org.uk

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Dilnot Commission: Government sparks fears of new delays over funding reform

The Department of Health (DH) is set to cause outrage among disabled

campaigners after it appears to have abandoned plans to include reforms to care and support funding in a white paper next spring.

Following the recent launch of a well-received report on the funding of care and support in England by the Dilnot Commission, the government said it planned to consult with the care sector over the autumn, before publishing a white paper on “wider social care reform” next spring.

This had already caused alarm among disabled activists and other campaigners, because the government originally pledged to produce a white paper by the end of this year, with a social care bill – containing funding reforms – to follow next year.

The DH said that the white paper would include the government’s response to the Law Commission’s report on reforming adult social care law, alongside a “progress report on funding”, which will lay out its response to the Dilnot report.

Visit:

www.dilnotcommission.dh.gov.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-13980493

www.ncil.org.uk

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Dilnot Commission: Campaigner back report’s proposals

Activists have called on disabled people and other campaigners to “get behind the findings” of a commission set up to recommend changes to the funding of care and support in England.

Although there was disappointment with some of the details of the Dilnot Commission’s report, disabled people’s organisations have strongly welcomed most of its basic principles.

Sue Bott, director of the National Centre for Independent Living (NCIL), said the report’s recommendations were “light years better than the present system”, although she said NCIL would still prefer the government to go further and ensure all care was free and funded from general taxation.

Bott said Dilnot had “quite rightly” decided that those disabled people who enter adulthood with a care and support need are not “in a position to pay” for their care, which would particularly benefit those disabled people with careers and decent incomes, who presently have to fund much of their own support.

She said: “The current system is just so unfair to career-minded disabled people, it really is. It is sickening because it doesn’t matter what you do, there is no point in saving up for anything because you are just going to have it taken away.”

Bott also “very much” welcomed the report’s conclusion that Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – its planned replacement, Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – should continue to be available to those with lower support needs.

Visit: www.ncil.org.uk

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

National competition will set disabled pupils on road to Olympic Park

Disabled children are set to enjoy new sporting opportunities at school, both in inclusive versions of mainstream events and in high quality competitions against other disabled young people.

Jeremy Hunt MP, the secretary of state for culture, Olympics, media and sport, has announced plans to boost the

participation of disabled children in sport.

He was speaking at one of nine pilot events taking place ahead of this September's launch of a new national School Games competition, which will include both non-disabled and disabled pupils from schools across England.

Hunt said that participation rates of disabled children in competitive sport will be measured for the first time; there will be information and guidance for teachers and coaches on how disabled and non-disabled pupils can participate alongside each other in inclusive versions of mainstream sports; and 50 "trailblazing" schools will pioneer new ways to develop sporting opportunities for disabled pupils.

The new School Games will see pupils compete at school level, against other schools, and in county or regional finals, with the first national finals set to be staged in the 2012 Olympic Park next May.

Disabled pupils will compete next May in swimming, athletics, table-tennis and wheelchair basketball, with the possibility of events in sitting volleyball and wheelchair fencing.

Because most schools will not have enough disabled pupils to make up their own teams in sports such as wheelchair basketball, YST hopes mainstream schools will enable their pupils to join with disabled children from other local schools in teams based at central venues.

Visit: www.ukschoolgames.com

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Protesters bring grim warning on school inclusion to Westminster

On 29 June, scores of disabled activists and allies staged a Westminster protest against government plans that they believe would cause the country to slide back

towards a segregated education system.

As many as 70 campaigners joined the high-spirited, noisy march to protest at reforms that would make it harder for parents to secure a mainstream education for their disabled children and destroy years of progress towards a more inclusive system.

The coalition government has pledged to "remove the bias towards inclusion" in the education system, and has backed that pledge with proposals laid out in its Special Educational Needs (SEN) green paper. The protest was timed to coincide with the penultimate day of the green paper's public consultation.

The government wants to reintroduce two notorious "caveats" that made it easier for schools to avoid admitting disabled pupils.

The caveats were removed following a long campaign in the 1990s by disabled activists including Richard Rieser and Micheline Mason, who are leading the new 'Reverse the Bias campaign' against the government's proposals.

The government also plans to replace SEN statements with personal budgets for disabled children, which Mason and Rieser believe would simply lead to councils rationing school-based support.

And they say the government's policies on free schools will lead to the launch of a new generation of special schools, outside the control of local authorities.

The march started on Westminster Bridge and wound past the Houses of Parliament and twice around Parliament Square, before campaigners set off balloons outside Westminster Abbey, to highlight the involvement of the Church of England in running special schools.

Visit:

www.reversethebiascampaign.com

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Duo win ‘fantastic opportunity’ to take helm at 2012 opening ceremony

The appointment of two disabled artists to direct next year’s opening ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympics creates a “fantastic opportunity” to showcase disability arts on a world stage, say fellow artists.

Disabled artists said the choice of Jenny Sealey – artistic director of the disabled-led theatre company Graeae – should provide “amazing opportunities” for disabled performers.

The appointment of Bradley Hemmings – less well-known but still an influential figure in the disability arts world – as the second artistic director for the opening ceremony has also been welcomed.

Hemmings is director of the Greenwich+Docklands International Festival (GDIF) – a critically-acclaimed outdoor dance and theatre festival – and also curates and produces Liberty, London’s annual disability arts festival.

Sealey described her appointment as: “A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work collaboratively with leading Deaf, disabled and non-disabled artists to create a unique, unforgettable spectacle to be enjoyed by millions across the globe”.

Visit: www.london2012.com

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Mayor silent as Liberty is turfed out of Trafalgar Square

Leading disabled artists and campaigners have raised concerns about the decision to move London’s annual disability arts festival from its home in Trafalgar Square.

This year’s Liberty festival will instead take place on London’s South Bank –

home to the National Theatre and the Southbank Centre – on Saturday 3 September.

The eight previous Liberty festivals have all been held in Trafalgar Square, since the first event in 2003 was created by London’s then mayor Ken Livingstone and the now defunct disabled people’s organisation, Greater London Action on Disability.

Since 2003, Liberty has established itself as a vital date on the capital’s disability arts calendar, and has become a tourist attraction in its own right, playing a major part in raising awareness of disability rights and boosting the profile of some of the country’s most talented disabled artists.

But the announcement that Liberty was moving to the South Bank, still part of London’s tourist heartland but much less central than Trafalgar Square, was slipped out quietly this week.

The news was included in a press release issued by the organisers of London 2012, announcing that Bradley Hemmings, who curates and produces Liberty, had been appointed as one of two artistic directors for the 2012 Paralympics opening ceremony.

Leading disabled figures raised concerns this week about the decision to move Liberty to the South Bank.

Visit: www.london.gov.uk

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Airline no closer to solution on powered wheelchairs five years on

An airline has been unable to explain why it is still refusing to accept powered wheelchairs on its flights, at least five years after the issue was first raised publicly.

EasyJet claims health and safety rules

mean it cannot ask baggage handlers to load any wheelchairs that weigh more than 60kg onto its aircraft.

The issue was highlighted this week after the mother of 12-year-old Declan Spencer, from Leicester, was told by easyJet that it would not allow his powered wheelchair into the hold of their holiday flight to Cyprus because it was too heavy.

EasyJet said it “welcomes more than a quarter of a million passengers with reduced mobility every year and we regularly carry powered wheelchairs, provided they can be collapsed into separate parts weighing less than 60kg each”.

But it has been unable to explain why it cannot pay for suitable equipment to load heavier wheelchairs onto its aircraft, or why it appears to have taken no steps to solve the problem since at least 2006.

Visit: <http://dptac.independent.gov.uk/>

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Disabled people ‘doubly disadvantaged over debts’

Creditors are failing to make the necessary reasonable adjustments to help their disabled clients sort out their debt problems, according to a new report from ‘Citizens Advice’ (CA).

The report, ‘Double Disadvantage’, says many disabled people face problems such as inaccessible bills, high pressure sales techniques, unfair methods of debt collection, and irresponsible lending, with many creditors not taking any account of their client’s impairment.

Although disabled Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) clients have slightly lower average debts (under £13,000) than their non-disabled clients (nearly £15,500), they are more likely to have high-cost

credit debts. Citizens Advice said creditors must become more proactive in recognising the needs of their disabled clients.

About a fifth of people seeking debt advice from CAB in England and Wales are disabled or have a long-term health condition. Last year, CAB gave advice or support on problem debt to more than 72,000 disabled people.

Common causes of debt problems for disabled people include a restricted ability to work, low income, and the cost of disability-related expenditure.

More than a quarter of CAB clients who are disabled or have a disabled child attribute some of their financial difficulties to problems with benefits, compared with seven per cent of all CAB clients, says the report.

Among its recommendations, the report says regulators of financial services, credit providers and utilities need to “provide a clear steer on how to implement the rules governing consumer credit and retail banking to make sure disabled consumers’ needs are taken into account”.

The report also says that many creditors are failing to take account of the Equality Act and need to adopt an “equality focus” in all parts of their business.

Visit: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Mencap hate campaign ‘must not distract’ from wider efforts

Disabled activists have welcomed a new campaign aimed at improving the way the police handle hate crime against people with learning difficulties, but have warned that it could distract from wider efforts to address the issue.

The charity Mencap recently launched

its 'Stand By Me' campaign, and a report based on research examining 14 police forces across England.

The report calls for better training in most police forces on "identifying, recording and handling hate crime reports made by people with a learning disability".

Among its other recommendations, it says forces should: build partnerships with disabled people's organisations and those run by people with learning difficulties; ensure there is at least one officer with "dedicated responsibility" for dealing with hate crime; and encourage third-party reporting.

Richard Hawkes, Chief Executive of Scope, said (20 June 2011):

"The findings of this report are extremely worrying, and despite previous commitments, it appears that there is still a general lack of understanding about disability hate crime from the police, the organisation that should play a central role in combating it.

Visit: www.mencap.org.uk

www.scope.org.uk

Email: policy@scope.org.uk

Call: **020 7619 7718**

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Government 'used Motability claims to stir up hostility'

The government has been accused again of stirring up hostility against disabled people and running a "deliberate smearing campaign", after stories appeared in national newspapers about alleged abuse of the Motability car scheme.

A Sunday Times "investigation" claimed friends and relatives were misusing the cars that disabled people have obtained through the Motability scheme, while the Daily Mail described this misuse as a

"scam". The Sunday Times claimed government officials were concerned that the disabled people's car scheme had "mushroomed out of control" and was "so generous that it encourages people to submit spurious claims or to try to keep a benefit to which they are no longer entitled".

The Mail said the government "hopes that its planned reform of the disability living allowance (DLA) will help stamp out such abuses by introducing closer scrutiny of the system and considering whether Motability is the best option for everyone".

Many disabled activists are convinced that the source of the story was within the government, which they say is trying to soften up the public for cuts to spending on DLA and its replacement with a new Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

Motability said its scheme was abused only by "a small minority" of people, while the "overwhelming majority of our customers are hugely deserving individuals with real physical impairments".

In 2010 – 11, about 800 people were removed from the scheme for abuse, out of 580,000 customers – less than 0.14 per cent.

Another 500 people were prevented from joining or renewing their agreements, but Motability said many of these were due to driving convictions and so unrelated to misuse.

A DWP spokeswoman said: "Motability is an independent charity which is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the scheme and DWP has regular reviews to monitor its performance.

"Motability provides a vital service for disabled people. However, any misuse of taxpayers' money is unacceptable and it is essential that we get the gateway to

receipt of DLA right, which is why we are introducing the PIP.”

Visit: www.motability.co.uk
www.disabledmotoring.org

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

They give you the PIP

Draft rules (the draft Social Security (Personal Independence Payment (Assessment) Regulations) on the entitlement test for the personal independence payment (PIP) have been published. The PIP will replace Disability Living Allowance in 2013.

Alongside the draft rules, the DWP has also published briefing notes on the policy underlying the new benefit.

For further information, please visit the website of the DWP.

Visit: www.dwp.gov.uk
www.cpag.org.uk
www.dpac.uk.net

CPAG Welfare Rights Bulletin 222 – June 2011

WCA – government claim improvements

The government has asserted that the quality of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) has improved, with the implementation of recommendations made in a report by Professor Malcolm Harrington. (That report recommends a number of changes relating to decision-making processes and communication, including that decision makers should stop considering themselves bound by the official WCA medical report, drawn up by Atos)

Work and Pensions minister Chris Grayling MP told a debate in parliament on 10 May that, ‘all bar two’ of the Harrington recommendations had been

implemented, and would all be in place by June’. The minister also denied that the Atos medical assessors worked to targets: ‘A myth has been circulating for some time that our contractors are incentivised to find people fit for work. That is absolutely not the case and I am happy to put that on the record.’

Visit: www.cpag.org.uk
www.dwp.gov.uk

Source: House of Commons Hansard debates, 10 May 2011, columns 400WH-406WH.

CPAG Welfare Rights Bulletin 222 – June 2011

Changes to the blue badge scheme

Over 2011, the maximum fee a local authority can charge for a blue badge will increase: the design of the blue badge will change: and more disabled children and armed forces personnel will qualify for a blue badge.

Visit www.direct.gov.uk
www.disabledmotoring.org

RADAR Guide

MPs have been sent copies of a Guide on disability by the RADAR Disability Network, as a part of an “MP disability dialogue”.

This discusses how to meet with or email their MPs, and intends to compile a report on the project which will be launched at a parliamentary reception in October.

Visit www.radar.org.uk

Cash payments ‘lead to dignity, choice and control’

Disabled people who receive cash payments to buy their own social care services have told researchers how the

new system has helped them achieve greater choice and control in their lives.

The study into the use of cash – or direct – payments in Essex found “strong evidence” that they were helping people achieve more control and “more tailored and flexible services”, while service-users – particularly those with physical and sensory impairments – also reported “an increased sense of dignity”.

The report is the second of three in a three-year study of the impact of cash payments on disabled and older people in Essex, and was carried out by Essex Coalition of Disabled People (ECDP) and the Office for Public Management consultancy for Essex County Council.

Visit: www.ecdp.org.uk
www.essex.gov.uk

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Parents of disabled children could lose £1,400 in welfare shakeup

A hundred thousand disabled children will lose out when a crucial welfare benefit is halved under controversial reforms.

Parents can now receive a maximum of £54 a week through tax credits to help with the extra cost of looking after a disabled child. But under the welfare reform bill, passed by the Commons recently, that benefit will form part of universal credit and be cut to £27 a week, plunging thousands of families below the poverty line, according to the Children’s Society.

The government says the money saved will allow it to offer larger sums to children who are severely disabled. However, the Children’s Society said some families would lose £1,400 a year. It is claimed this could cost families with a child born with a disability about £22,000 by the time the

child reaches 16.

The government says it will provide transitional payments to ensure people do not lose out, but the guarantee does not extend to new claimants and will not be protected from inflation. Cash protection will also be lost through as yet undefined changes in a family’s circumstances.

Bob Reitemeier, chief executive of the Children’s Society, called for the government to halt the reforms. “This cut threatens to push many disabled children back below the poverty line,” he said “With 100,000 children affected by this, there are 100,000 reasons to rethink this policy.”

Richard Hawkes, Chief Executive of disability charity Scope, said: “Cuts to child benefit, disability living allowance reforms and the impact of local authority budget cuts are all having a cumulative effect that could risk pushing thousands more families into poverty as a result.”

Visit: www.childrenssociety.org.uk
www.scopr.org.uk

Source: The Guardian, 18 June 2011

Government reforms ‘risk turning watchdog into nit-picking factory’

Government plans to reform the equality watchdog risk turning it into a weak and “nit-picking compliance factory”, its chair has warned.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) was responding to a Government Equalities Office (GEO) consultation on plans to slash the commission’s budget and reduce its powers, remove funding for its grants programme, and ask the private or voluntary sector to take over its national helpline.

Trevor Phillips, the commission’s chair,

said the proposals were a “missed opportunity” to modernise the way equality law works and risked turning the EHRC into an “anonymous, cowed, nit-picking compliance factory, remote from the everyday challenges that face ordinary people”.

The EHRC response suggests that the government intends to cut its budget by more than half from £53m in 2010-11 to just £26m by 2014/15.

It came shortly after MPs and peers pledged to oppose the plans to remove the helpline from the EHRC, with Baroness [Jane] Campbell, Lord [Colin] Low – both disabled crossbench peers – and the Liberal Democrat MP Stephen Lloyd all promising to fight the proposal.

In its initial response to the consultation, the EHRC says the government’s proposals will prove expensive and time-consuming and distract it from its own modernisation plans.

The commission warns that the proposals would also threaten its independence – and put at risk its national human rights institution “A” status with the UN – with particular concerns over proposals that would allow the government to impose financial sanctions if the commission is shown to have “mis-spent taxpayers’ money”. It also warns that outsourcing its helpline would remove “the only expert national source of advice and guidance on equality and human rights issues”.

And it says that scrapping its mediation and conciliation service was likely to lead to more uncertainty and higher costs for public bodies and businesses, with discrimination cases on goods and services more likely to end up in court.

The EHRC says it has settled more than three-quarters of 459 mediation

cases without the need for expensive court action. The commission also says that plans to restrict its duty to promote good relations in society could make it harder to tackle issues such as disability-related harassment.

Visit: www.equalityhumanrights.com

Source: www.disabilitynewsservice.com

Funding

GRANTnet available to all Scope DIAL UK Member Groups

As you may know, GRANTnet is a service that Scope DIAL UK provides for all members to access.

It is a user friendly, on line search tool through which groups can gain access to funding opportunities.

It is a straight forward, free-to-use service, designed to help you find suitable funding across EC and UK funding sources. These include government departments, local authorities, charitable trust and corporate sponsors.

GRANTnet allows you to undertake searches for funds to apply for specific projects and core funding.

The information provided in the database can be specific to your particular locality region or at a national level. The great advantage of it is that using a window from their web site you are able to carry out your own funding searches following a series of simple steps to rapidly access quality information on suitable funding opportunities.

You can access GRANTnet directly from the DIAL UK website member’s area, or email paul.carr@scope.org.uk for your personalised link.

Calendar of events

CPAG Rights Conference

The Child Poverty Action Group's annual rights conference will be looking at the cuts being made to benefits and tax credits, along with the fundamental changes to the welfare system which will follow in line with the introduction of Universal Credit.

This conference is an opportunity for all those working in the welfare rights field, plus other interested advisers and policy workers, to join together and learn about the latest developments in welfare and discuss the impact of these changes.

Workshop sessions:

- ESA – reform and reassessment
- Give us the money: dealing with delay in social security cases
- Personal independence payment
- Tax credits – going, going, gone?
- Universal credit

Venue: London N7

Date: 15 September 2011

For more information, please visit the website of the CPAG.

Visit:

www.cpag.org.uk/training/events.htm

Call: **020 7812 5228**

CPAG Welfare Reform Course

The benefit and tax credit system is set to change radically with some benefits being abolished and new ones introduced – and there are deep benefit cuts being made over the coming years. This half-day course gives advisers a round up of the changes and considers the effect of welfare reform on claimants.

It includes:

- An overview of changes to employment

- and support allowance
- Reforms to housing benefit, tax credits and other benefits
- Proposals for universal credit
- Proposals for a new personal independence payment replacing disability living allowance
- A round-up of other changes

Venue: Glasgow

Date: 31 August 2011

Venue: London

Date: 12 December 2011

For more information, please visit the website of the CPAG.

Visit:

www.cpag.org.uk/training/events.htm

Call: **020 7812 5228** (for London)

0141 552 3420 (for Glasgow)

Training

Birmingham Tribunal Unit Accredited Welfare Rights Training Programme

The Birmingham Tribunal Unit (BTU) has released their training programme for September 2011 to March 2012. This includes various courses covering:

- Benefits for Non Advisers
- DLA and AA Introductory
- Introduction to Benefits
- Benefits and Young People
- Welfare Reforms and Universal Credit
- Form Filling: DLA and AA
- Means Tested Benefits
- Introduction to ESA and ICB
- DLA and AA Advanced
- Right to Reside
- Appeals and Decision-Making
- Appealing to the Upper Tribunal
- Housing Benefit Introductory
- Social Fund

- Employment Support Allowance
- Benefits for Carers
- Housing Benefit Advanced
- Benefits and People Coming From Abroad
- Pension Credits
- Tax Credits

For further details, please visit the website of the BTU.

Visit: www.btu.org.uk

Call: **0121 666 7533**

The-Centre (For Strategy and Communication)

Courses are now available for Summer within the following categories:

- The Management Ladder
- Management Courses
- Personal Effectiveness Courses
- Writing Courses
- Communication Courses
- Administration Courses

Visit: www.the-centre.co.uk

Call: **020 7490 3030**

Publications

New information booklet

'Other Ways of Speaking' is a new information booklet for parents and professionals that provides information on the different ways children and young people with little or no speech communicate, how to support them and where to go for further information and help.

Available to order and download from www.hello.org.uk/resources, 'Other Ways of Speaking' is a free resource that has been produced by The Communication Trust and Communication Matters with its member organisations 1 Voice, ACE

Centre, ACE Centre North, The Makaton Charity, Scope and Signalong.

This booklet explores Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), a term that describes a wide range of techniques children and young people use to support or replace spoken communication.

Techniques such as using gestures, signing, symbols, boards and books, adapted computers and dedicated Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCAs).

Hello is the 2011 national year of communication; a campaign to increase understanding of how important it is for all children and young people to develop good communication skills.

Hello is run by The Communication Trust, a coalition of 40 voluntary organisations with expertise in speech, language and communication in partnership with Jean Gross, England's Communication Champion for children.

Visit: www.hello.org.uk

Getting the message across

Skills for care and skills for health have produced 'Carers Matter' – Everybody's Business, free guidance to help employers and organisations better support carers through the learning and development of their staff.

It is based on a set of common core principles for working with core principles for working with carers that were developed in consultation with carers, people working with carers, and interested parties across social care, health and other key sectors.

The guidance offers information and practical tools to enable training to be commissioned or delivered in ways to meet different working and learning needs in a variety of settings.

For further information, please visit Skills for care and skills for health
Visit: www.skillsforcare.org.uk/carers

Disabled Children: a legal handbook

This is an authoritative, yet accessible, guide to the legal rights of disabled children and their families in England and Wales. The authors expertly navigate the many, often overlapping, sources of law, explaining the difference between what public bodies must do to support disabled children and that which they may do.

Contents include:

- Legal entitlements
- Understanding disabled children's lives
- Legal fundamentals
- Children's services
- Education
- Health
- Welfare benefits
- Housing
- Carers
- Equality and discrimination
- Transition to adulthood
- Appendices: extracts from legislation, guidance and international conventions

For more information, please visit the website of the Legal Action Group.

Visit: www.lag.org.uk

Directory of Community Health Care Services 2011 / 12

The Directory of Community Health Services is a handy, easy-to-use and accurate contact book for anyone in social or health care who needs to liaise with other teams, across the UK. This definitive guide to the changing landscape of the NHS has been updated for 2011.

The Directory of Community Health Services 2011 / 12 is described as the

number one source of contact data for the services provided by the many hundreds of organisations working in social and health care in the NHS across the UK.

The latest edition of the Directory has been fully updated to include all the proposed changes in the NHS in England, to make sure you have the best available information to hand.

For further information, please visit the website of Pavilion, the directory publisher.

Visit:

www.pavpub.com/c-19-directories.aspx

Useful contacts

The European Disability Forum

The work of the EDF covers all fields of European Union competence and a great number of initiatives. Although the European institutions might seem far for many citizens, the decisions taken by the European Union, which are the result of negotiations between all Member States, have a direct impact on the lives of persons with disabilities. That is why, the role of EDF is so important in monitoring all EU initiatives and in proposing new legislation to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.

For further details, please visit the website of the EDF.

Visit www.edf-feph.org

Royal College of Psychiatrists

This is the professional and educational body for psychiatrists in the United Kingdom.

The website of the Royal College of Psychiatrists has helpful, detailed printable leaflets relating to many mental

health conditions.

For more information of to download leaflets, please visit their website.

Visit **www.rcpsych.ac.uk**

Disability Conciliation Service

The DCS offers disabled people an alternative to court or tribunal action. It is an opportunity for disabled people and service providers to resolve cases under the DDA.

For more information on the Disability Conciliation Service, please visit their website.

Visit **www.dcs-gb.net**

Other matters

Contact us

All Scope DIAL UK staff can be contacted via the main Scope DIAL UK phone number: **01302 310 123** or email **dialuk@scope.org.uk**

Please note:

We've made every effort in this mailing to use language in keeping with the Social Model of Disability. However, some terms used in this leaflet might not reflect this.

Although these are not our preferred terms, some of the materials used are quoted directly from source and used in their original format.